

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 20, and add Claim 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A focusing apparatus for executing a focusing calculation according to an image signal from a sensor comprising a plurality of sensor blocks, each sensor block accumulating image signal components, said focusing apparatus comprising:
 - a control circuit for controlling an operation for accumulating image signal components in a sensor block of the plurality of sensor blocks;
 - a reading processing circuit for performing reading processing control for the sensor block; and
 - a changing circuit for changing the reading processing control based on a result of determination of an accumulation condition for the sensor block,wherein, for each sensor block of the plurality of sensor blocks, every time the operation for accumulating image signal components in the sensor block is finished, said reading processing circuit performs the reading processing control and, if necessary, said changing circuit changes the reading processing control,
 - wherein the reading processing control comprises determining whether or not to read an image signal from the sensor block in accordance with a condition, and
 - wherein changing the reading processing control comprises changing the condition.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A focusing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensor block comprises a plurality of cell units, and wherein a first set of the plurality of cell units of the sensor block outputs a signal indicating the luminance or the contrast received by the sensor block.

4-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A focusing apparatus according to Claim 1~~ A focusing apparatus for executing a focusing calculation according to an image signal from a sensor comprising a plurality of sensor blocks, each sensor block accumulating image signal components, said focusing apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for controlling an operation for accumulating image signal components in a sensor block of the plurality of sensor blocks;

a reading processing circuit for performing reading processing control for the sensor block; and

a changing circuit for changing the reading processing control based on a result of determination of an accumulation condition for the sensor block,

wherein, for each sensor block of the plurality of sensor blocks, every time the operation for accumulating image signal components in the sensor block is finished, said reading processing circuit performs the reading processing control and, if necessary, said changing circuit changes the reading processing control,

wherein the reading processing control comprises allowing reading of an image signal from the sensor block in response to a P-B signal being greater than or equal to a threshold

level and preventing reading of the image signal from the sensor block in response to the P-B signal being less than the threshold level, and

wherein changing the reading processing control based on a result of determination of an accumulation condition for the sensor block comprises setting the threshold in accordance with the P-B signal.

21. (New) A focusing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the condition is a threshold condition.